

STRONGER TOGETHER: PARTNERSHIPS MATTER

A strong and positive partnership between preschool teachers and parents supports their children's healthy development and psychological wellbeing. According to research, our children feel more secure and experience a greater sense of competence and self-worth, when parents and educators are able to work together.

To forge closer partnerships, I encourage parents and educators to regularly communicate with one another, and be prepared to share your views and aspirations. At the same time, be open to different perspectives, practical realities and, most importantly, have mutual respect. As we do so, I believe parents and educators will be able to make even better parenting and pedagogical decisions to support our children's development.

Collaborative partnerships with community agencies also matter. Both the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) and ECDA are working with KKH Women's and Children's Hospital and the National University Hospital (NUH), as well as other agencies to better support children with developmental needs through customised programmes in preschools. Together with the Health Promotion Board (HPB), ECDA is undertaking a holistic occupational health assessment to create more

conducive workplaces to boost the work productivity and wellbeing of our early childhood educators.

Our annual Early Childhood Conference "Beyond the Classroom: Take Learning Outdoors" will be held on 13 and 14 September 2019 at Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre. Given the positive impact that outdoor learning has on our children's holistic development, we welcome educators, parents and children to visit us and learn more about the benefits of the outdoors and to pick up tips and ideas on outdoor learning.

Early childhood development goes beyond educating our children. It is also about enriching their learning experience through close partnerships between the home, preschool and community. To enable these partnerships to flourish often requires effort, patience and a big heart — working with others is not always easy. But the payoffs in terms of shaping our children's lives and values are worth it!

As Helen Keller once remarked, "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." Let us work together for our children.



MR EUGENE LEONG
Chief Executive Officer
Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA)



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